

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 12-44 are pending.

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 12-44 have been added.

Claims 12 and 29 are independent claims.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-11, without prejudice, and Applicants have added new Claims 12-44. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12-44 do not contain new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12-44 are patentable over the prior art.

A. THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-7 and 10-13 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,709,987. As noted above, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-11, without prejudice, and Applicants have added new Claims 12-44. In this regard, Applicants have cancelled the conflicting Claims 1-11 and have added new Claims 12-44.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

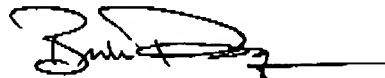
B. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12-44 are patentable over the prior art. Allowance of pending Claims 12-44 is respectfully requested.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696 for the required fee for the additional claims fees. A two month request for extension of time is enclosed herewith, with

authorization to charge deposit account no. 04-1696 the requisite extension fee. No other fees are believed to be necessary. If any additional fees are required, please charge deposit account 04-1696 accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,



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